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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/517,106      | 12/07/2004  | Hans Paul Tuinhout   | NL02 0488US         | 1314             |

65913 7590 03/23/2009

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| EXAMINER |
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BAISA, JOSELITO SASIS

|          |              |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2832

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|-------------------|---------------|
| NOTIFICATION DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|-------------------|---------------|

03/23/2009

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ip.department.us@nxp.com

|                              |                                      |  |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/517,106 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>TUINHOUT ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>JOSELITO BAISA    | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2832                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 12-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 12-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greitschus et al. [5872504] in view of Praria [4505032].

Regarding claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 12, 14 and 16, Greitschus discloses a resistor network comprising a resistor body 4 that includes multiple resistor sub-bodies 3, with electrical connection 8 between respective sub-bodies being exclusively via taps (7) connected with the resistor sub-bodies 3 [Col. 2, Lines 22-63, Figure 1].

Greitschus discloses the instant claimed invention discussed above except for a plurality of column of taps; the resistor sub-bodies connected to and situated between column of taps and connected to each of the taps of the two column of taps; wherein at least two taps can be connected with respective first and second sources of reference input potentials, and wherein each tap of the at least one column of taps can be used for outputting an output potential via a contact area which is connected with the concerning tap.

Praria discloses a resistor body 56f (resistor sub-body) connected to and situated between column of taps 64f, 64ff, 64fff and taps 64'f, 64'ff, 64'fff, wherein at least two taps can be connected with respective first and second sources of reference input potentials, and wherein each tap of the at least one column of taps can be used for outputting an output potential via a

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contact area which is connected with the concerning tap (62f, 62ff...)[Col. 6, Lines 3-11, Figure 8].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a resistor body as taught by Praria to be the resistor sub-body of Greitschus, wherein each of the tap is connected to at most two resistor sub-bodies.

The motivation would have been to be able to provide a resistor network, which enables a number of different ratios or taps to be independently trimmed on a single resistor [Col. 1, Lines 61-65].

Regarding claims 2 and 13, Praria discloses resistor sub-body provided with at least one column of taps ( 64f, ...64ffff ) wherein each tap of the column of taps is an extremity such as a T-shaped projection which is connected with the concerning resistor sub-body 56f [see Figure 8].

Regarding claims 4 and 15, Praria discloses straight parallel peninsulas of each resistor sub-body is not necessarily be the case. It can be shifted depending on the need [Col. 5, Lines 34-40, Figures 2-5].

Regarding claim 5, Greitschus discloses the respective connections between the resistor sub-bodies with the taps (7) are made during fabrication of the resistor network at different arbitrary positions with respect to the respective taps [Col. 2, Lines 53-67, Figure 1].

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Regarding claim 6, Greitchus discloses the resistor network (4, 3) is a semiconductor-circuit, wherein each resistor sub-body comprises a number of resistor layers, wherein each semi-conducting resistor layer comprises at least two taps, and wherein the semi-conducting resistor layers are interconnected via the taps [Col. 2, Lines 53-67, Figure 1].

### ***Response to Argument***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 and 12-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Greitschus discloses a resistor network comprising a resistor body 4 that includes multiple resistor sub-bodies 3, with electrical connection 8 between respective sub-bodies being exclusively via taps (7) connected with the resistor sub-bodies 3 [Col. 2, Lines 22-63, Figure 1].

Praria discloses a resistor body 56f (sub-body) connected to and situated between column of taps 64f, 64ff, 64fff and taps 64'f, 64'ff, 64'fff.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joselito Baisa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7132. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 am to 2:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elvin G Enad/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2832

Joselito Baisa  
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